

80. (Three Times Amended) A device manufacturing method comprising a step of transferring a device pattern onto a work piece, wherein said transferring step comprises:

illuminating a slit area on a predetermined plane on which a mask is arranged with an illumination beam emerging from a fly-eye type integrator having a plurality of optical elements each of which has a cross sectional shape substantially equal to a shape of said slit area on said predetermined plane;

changing an intensity distribution of said illumination beam on a pupil plane of an illumination optical system that includes said fly-eye type integrator; and

relatively moving said mask and said work piece with respect to said illumination beam, respectively, to perform scanning exposure of said work piece with said illumination beam through said mask.

REMARKS

Claims 1-104 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 54, 56-58, 78 and 80 are amended. No new matter is added by the above amendments.

I. Description of Claim Amendments

Independent claim 54 has been amended to add the following clause at the end of the first sub-paragraph (beginning "an illumination optical system..."): "and an optical device which changes an intensity distribution of said illumination beam on a pupil plane of said illumination optical system". Dependent claims 56-58 have been amended so as to be consistent with amended claim 54. In particular, claim 56 has been amended to change "further comprising a stop member..." to "wherein said optical device comprises a stop member..."; claim 57 has been amended to change "on a pupil plane" to "on said pupil plane"; and claim 58 has been amended to change "and an intensity distribution" to "and said intensity distribution". Independent claims 78 and 80 have been amended in identical fashion so as to add the second sub-paragraph "changing an intensity distribution of said illumination

beam on a pupil plane of an illumination optical system that includes said fly-eye type integrator".

II. Supplemental Reissue Declaration

A Supplemental Reissue Declaration will be filed shortly that addresses the amendments made to the claims in this Amendment.

III. All Pending Claims are in Condition for Allowance

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-53, 64-77 and 81-104. Applicants also note with appreciation the identification of allowable subject matter in claims 58-63. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, as detailed below.

Claims 54-57 and 78-80 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP-A-62-115718 (JP-718) in view of either U.S. Patent No. 4,924,257 to Jain or U.S. Patent No. 5,194,893 to Nishi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As noted above, independent claim 54 has been amended to recite that the illumination optical system includes an optical device which changes an intensity distribution of the illumination beam on a pupil plane of the illumination optical system. Independent claims 78 and 80 have been amended to recite a step of changing an intensity distribution of the illumination beam on a pupil plane of an illumination optical system that includes the fly-eye type integrator. The references relied upon in the Office Action do not disclose or suggest such features/steps combined with the other features/steps of claims 54, 78 and 80, respectively.

JP-718 does not disclose or suggest any structure or step that changes an intensity distribution of an illumination beam on a pupil plane of an illumination optical system. Neither Jain nor Nishi discloses structure or a step of changing an intensity distribution of an illumination beam on a pupil plane of an illumination optical system. Accordingly,

independent claims 54, 78 and 80, along with their dependent claims, are patentable over the applied references. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/ccs

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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